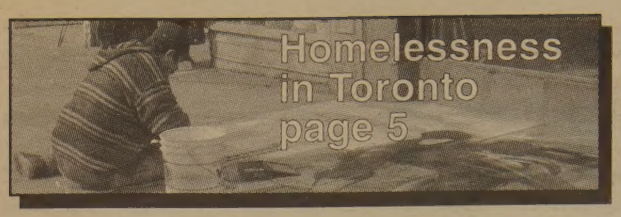

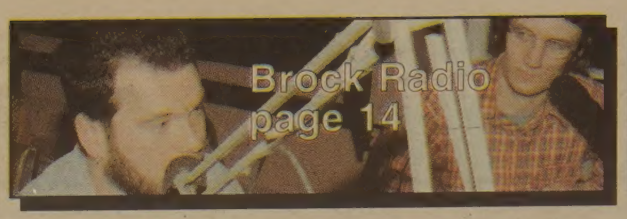

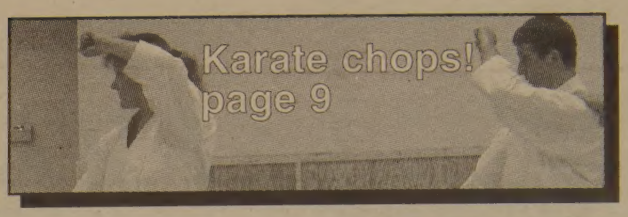

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NIAGARA NEWS

March 17, 2000 | FREE | VOLUME 30 ISSUE 13

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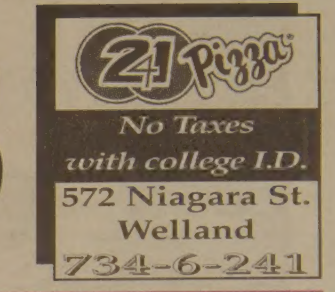

Masami Nogusa, 15, from Japan, sister of Masami, 21, who's in her first year of the Office Administration — Executive program, tries out dogsled rides during their Northern Lights tour to Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories this month. See related story on page 15.

Submitted photo

Two-per-cent cap set for tuition

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

In a surprise announcement this week, the provincial government has imposed a five-year, two-per-cent cap on the amount colleges and universities can increase tuition.

Tuesday's announcement by Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, came just two days before Niagara College administrators were scheduled to table their 2000-2001 budget, Thursday night.

"By setting out a long-term tuition strategy, we are giving students and parents the ability to better plan and prepare for the cost of a post-secondary education," said Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, in a press release.

In addition, Cunningham announced the government will make good on its promise to tie a portion of provincially-funded operating grants for colleges to Key Performance Indicator (KPI) results. The government, she said, will add $16 million in additional money for operating costs at Ontario's 25 community colleges. Of this, $14 million will be awarded to individual colleges for performance under three criteria: graduate employment rate, graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction.

Now it will be up to the Niagara College's Board of Governors to decide if tuition rates will go up, and if so, by how much.

If the board were to approve an increase in tuition rates by the full two per cent allowed under the new guidelines, students in most programs would pay an extra $34 a year beginning in September. According to the ministry, the average tuition fee at Ontario colleges in 2000-2001 will be $1,718.

The college has already stated there will be no increase in tuition rates for students in any of the college's 13 post-graduate programs.

This tuition cap does not apply, however, to certain programs that have been deregulated by the province.

Continued on page 6

Outdoor fun highlights SAC's Fools Fest

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

With April Fool's day almost here, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) is holding the second annual Fools Fest.

The event, to be held on March 30 at After Hours, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., will have cash prizes for the winning teams.

First-place teams receive $200, second-place teams will receive $150, and third-place gets $75. These prize amounts are subject to change. The first- and last-place teams also receive T-shirts commemorating the event.

The teams play on a point value system, said Kristine Tilbrook, 23, a second-year Recreation and Leisure Services program student. She is working on this SAC event as a volunteer.

She advises teams to wear grubby clothes, since there are outdoor activities planned, no matter what the weather. The games that are planned are rally races and scavenger hunts.

"Rubber chickens will be involved."

Tilbrook said that she hopes "this (event) will be carried on as a yearly event," by second-year students in the Recreation and Leisure Services program.

Tilbrook volunteered on this project last year when Ryan Rudychuck, a former Recreation and Leisure Services program student, ran it.

"I'm very impressed with the volunteer turnout," Tilbrook said. "They are all first-year Recreation and Leisure students, and I would like to thank them in advance for their help."

SAC donated the prize money for the winning teams, from a budget that was set for the event.

Tilbrook says they're "working well within the budget."

The teams get a free barbecue — hamburgers, hotdogs and pop — for participating in the event. The pub is open that night for team members.

Registration forms can be picked up at the SAC office. The final date for entry is Monday, March 20.

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Thank You!

Dan Patterson, President, would like to thank all of the dedicated staff, faculty, students and friends who assisted in making the 2000 ACAATO conference such an amazing success. The spirit and hospitality of Niagara College has never shone so brightly!

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Chris Burmester
Pamela Cicci
Sean Coffey
Carrie Dudley
Laurie Elliott
Stephanie Irvine
Amy Kaal
Teresa McKay
Daniel Morley
David Scappaticci
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Kristina Tomas

Human Relations Program
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Sandra Plavinskis
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Noriko Omasa
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NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

EYE ON NIAGARA

WSIB trying to save people money

A seminar was given on safety in the workplace at the Maid of the Mist campus

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

Instead of employee and employer paying for an accident on the job after it happens, the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) wants to help save everyone some money by preventing "occupational hazards."

Evelyn Penner, account manager for the WSIB was at the Maid of the Mist Centre on Feb. 23 presented a seminar focused on safety in the workplace. About eight people attended, despite the importance of the issue.

According to the Ontario Service Safety Alliance (OSSA), the Ontario Service Sector registered almost 36,000 claims for employee injury and illness in 1997. A year later the WSIB began its program to deal with accidents before they happen.

The WSIB's job is to educate. It has partnered with the Ministry of Labour and also with a group of 14 organizations known as the designated entities.

This group provides a training centre and health clinic to provide consultation and health and safety services to businesses and employees across the province.

The main strategy of the WSIB is to educate companies on health and safety issues regarding their business. They help develop health and safety programs with the company including having committees and keeping records of accidents and injuries.

Funding for the WSIB comes from employers' premiums and not the government. A company's premiums will be higher if it has a high record of injury.

Using one logging company as an example, this company pays $11 for every $100 in its payroll to the WSIB. A restaurant or hotel would pay between $1.50 and $2.50 for every $100 in its payroll.

An employer with a $3-million payroll (about 200 employees) would pay about $85,000 a year to the WSIB. Employers are protected from lawsuits and are offered incentive programs to reduce premiums and to provide rebates to companies who lower their injury rates.

> *'As young people entering the workplace, you should be looking around and seeing things that should be fixed.'*
> *—Evelyn Penner*

The WSIB, along with the OSSA, provides education to businesses through programs such as certification training, first aid programs and young workers awareness.

The certification training certifies members of joint health and safety committees. The WSIB sets standards and oversees the programs. It also regulates first aid equipment and facilities and trains personnel with the first aid program.

In 1999 a young boy was entangled in a dough mixer at work and died. As a result guards are now a standard requirement for mixers.

The WSIB wants to eliminate these preventable accidents partly by targeting young workers though the Young Workers Awareness Program.

This program promotes awareness of workplace risks, rights and responsibilities among young workers.

"As young people entering the workplace, you should be looking around and seeing things that should be fixed," says Penner.

"It's going to be a slow process," says Penner. "Employers think it's too time consuming and they'll lose money when, in fact, it would save them money."

Student becomes new residence don

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's student residence has found three new student dons, and one of them is Becky Beenen, 21, of Port Perry.

Beenen, a second-year student in the Child and Youth Worker program, says one of the reasons she wanted to be a don was she thought it would be a good experience for what she's going through school for.

"I want to be able to help people," she said. "I want to help the people in rez get as much out of college as possible."

She said she is "looking forward to meeting new people in the rez. I think it will be great the first time someone comes to talk, the first time I am really needed."

Beenen, who lived in residence her first year of college, said she is "looking forward to moving back.

"I enjoy the atmosphere in residence and all the friends you meet."

Beenen, who moves into the residence in September, said being a don is a "paid position."

Two other dons will be working with Beenen. Asked why she thought she would make a good

BECKY BEENEN

don, she responded by saying "I think all three of us got the position for very different reasons. We all have unique personalities, and we all work well together."

She said some of her duties include working at the front desk, planning activities and "just being there for people to talk to. Our main concern is to make students' life at residence as enjoyable as possible."

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EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
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Fuel for thought

With gas prices going through the roof, it's time our government does something to help everybody.

The cost of fuel affects everyone, whether it's because of driving to work, flying or simply buying products at the local store. Goods go up in price because it costs more to ship products to stores. Truckers are seeing their profits eaten away because their mileage doesn't include the increased price of fuel.

It's a shame that we are being held hostage by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil barons who can decide how much crude oil to produce. The less they produce the more they charge the world community for their commodity.

Here in North America we have many oil reserves. Many are in the Arctic where it costs too much to drill through the permafrost. The hope is that as technology improves we can get to that fuel more cheaply, but that's a long way down the road.

With no other choice, we are therefore forced to pay whatever the oil companies demand, or are we?

The Canadian government could lower the gas tax. This seems reasonable, but is unlikely. The government has counted on this money to pay for social services. There is also a fear that lowering the tax would just give the oil companies a chance to raise prices instead of passing the savings on to the public.

With all this in mind, it's time for a radical solution because the prices aren't about to come down anytime soon. The G-8 nations should get together and have a conference. These nations are the world's most powerful and use the majority of the world's oil.

These nations should decide to put massive amounts of money into alternative fuel sources, which could come in the form of electricity, or solar- or water -powered motors.

It seems unreasonable that we, as a world community, can send a man to the moon, have sophisticated spy satellites that can read license plates from space, and can link the world with the Internet, but we can't come up with anything better than a fossil-fuel-burning engine that pollutes the planet.

If the G-8 nations were to support alternative fuels it would put pressure on the oil-producing nations and companies. The message would be clear — the future doesn't include your over-priced poison. This would wake them up. They wouldn't want to see the water-powered motor destroy the business that makes them the fat cats they are.

Jason Vizbulis

Ban stereotypes, we're all human

As a richly multicultural country where people generally respect others, Canada showed its support for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21.

The annual campaign has the goal to raise awareness of racism in Canada and "inspire each of us to take action against racial discrimination."

As a minority person living in Canada, I, in fact, have experienced racial discrimination, but not defensively or obviously. Racism always exists anywhere and anytime around the world and it's a fact of life. That's my theory.

Overall, I perceive Canadians as friendly and open to others different from themselves.

I, as a Japanese person, think it's something Canadians should be very proud of.

My country, which is almost monocultural, still seems to be closed. Many people aren't exposed to other cultures to the same degree as Canadians.

I'm not whining about people around me, but, having been studying in Canada for about three years, I have come to realize that not many people have a good understanding of different cultures and people. As we "foreigners" have difficulty adapting ourselves to a different environment and interacting with others beyond our boundaries, the majority of Canadian people seem to me to have the same difficulty.

Before attempting to eliminate racial discrimination, just get to know different kinds of people who interest you and make friends with them.

Residents of Canada have unlimited chances of meeting people from different origins worldwide. You should be grateful for this opportunity and start learning about other cultures firsthand. There's much you don't know about the world.

Why don't you get rid of stereotypes in your mind and destroy cultural barriers?

After all, we're all the same: human beings.

Natsuko Tamura

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

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VIEWPOINTS

Downtown Toronto poverty stricken

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

An outreached, skeletal hand waits for sympathetic souls to reach into their pockets and offer their change.

A homeless teen waits for the light to turn red and then proceeds to offer his squeegee services, hoping to earn an extra buck to eat that day.

An empty sleeping bag and other valueless treasures are thrown in a corner, the owner certain that when he returns, all belongings will still be there.

Who would want garbage anyway?

This is the disgrace of downtown Toronto.

In a recent trip to Toronto, I was appalled at the poverty, so blatantly obvious on such streets as Queen and Yonge.

It was unbelievable how many business people wouldn't cast a second glance at a homeless person, huddled in a corner, shivering from the bitter cold.

They just continued to walk, probably late for an important lunch meeting at some high-class restaurant, and couldn't be bothered with such petty things.

Some people may say the homeless only panhandle to get money for their addictions to drugs and alcohol.

That may be true, but what about the artists whose talent is displayed on a Queen Street sidewalk?

What about the squeegee kids, who all attempt to at least earn their money?

Some may also say that these poverty-stricken people should get a decent job if they are that hard up for money.

In reality, what are the chances of an uneducated, homeless person being hired over a high school student or college graduate who actually has a place called home?

This whole controversy over "Bread not Circuses" is what sparked a realization of the poverty situation for many people.

Why is Toronto bidding millions of dollars to have the 2008 Olympics when ongoing problems such as homelessness and poverty have not been solved?

I, myself, had a reality check, and the reality disgusted me.

I hope we all develop a true awareness so that the next time you see someone on the streets, trying to earn an honest dollar, whether it be strumming a guitar, cleaning your car windows or beautifying the sidewalk with art, you won't have to think twice about digging into your pocket for change.

I know I won't.

A homeless man in downtown Toronto adds humour and art to the Queen Street sidewalk in hopes of earning money on Feb. 26.

Photo by Monica Paliniewicz

Shooting a serious reminder to parents

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

The older I get, the less I understand human nature.

I was shocked at the news about a recent shooting in Michigan by a six-year-old boy of a six-year-old girl attending the same school.

The shooting resulted from a fight in the school playground the day before. The boy is said to have taken the gun from the house where his mother and uncle were staying. The boy shot the girl in the neck while lining up to go to class.

It wasn't the news itself I found shocking as much as the age of the parties involved because these occurrences seem to be increasing in frequency.

My first thought was, where and how does a six-year-old get a gun?

I don't think I'd have the means to acquire a firearm, except legally, although I have no desire to do so.

'My first thought was, where and how does a six-year-old get a gun?'

Equally disturbing was the fact the boy knew how to use the gun.

Although this horrific crime should and could have been prevented, it should be taken as a serious reminder to parents to be aware of and act responsibly about the matter.

I believe that, at the age of six, a child knows the difference between right and wrong but might not know the consequences of his actions.

Just days later, an incident took place in which a 14-year-old boy brutally beat his four-month-old sister, while babysitting her. Unfortunately, the baby girl died in the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto shortly after.

At 14, a child should not only know what is right and wrong, but also be aware of the consequences.

I can't understand the motivation a child would have to take another life, when, at that age, he or could had experienced very little. Maybe it's society's fault, maybe the parents', maybe even television's. Blame is irrelevant in matters like these; instead, we should seek solutions.

Those solutions can be achieved through education, at home and at school, and through prevention.

Prevention methods could include stricter measures for young offenders or possibly lowering the age at which a child is still considered a young offender to, in my opinion, 13.

In addition to this, there should be stricter laws for purchasing guns, especially if there are children in the house.

Parents can do their part by keeping firearms safely stored, away from children, and by checking regularly for locked cabinet tampering.

Awareness leads to knowledge and knowledge is power. By educating children from an early age we give children the power to choose. After all, the only worry a child should have is that of being a child.

St. Patrick's Day brings Irish a day of green

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

The beer is green, the shamrocks are blooming, and the Irish have come out to play, all because it's St. Patrick's Day.

Celebration of St. Patrick's Day began on March 17, 461 AD. It was to commemorate the death of an Irish missionary who spent 30 years converting pagans.

The saint was originally known as Maewyn. He was born in Wales around 385 AD. He considered himself a pagan until he was 16. He had been sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders.

During his capture he grew closer to God. When he escaped six years later, he travelled to Gaul, where he studied for 12 years at a monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre. During this time he became aware that his calling was to convert pagans to Christianity.

Once he finished his studies, he returned to Ireland with a mission: to convert the pagans who had overrun the country. His superiors anointed him St. Palladius, and he became the second bishop to Ireland.

When he was transferred to Scotland, he took on the name Patrick. He travelled throughout Ireland establishing monasteries. He set up schools and churches that aided him in the conversion of the Irish to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted 30 years before he died.

Many folklore tales surround St. Patrick's Day.

One of the stories is that St. Patrick gave a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland.

Although St. Patrick's Day was originally a Catholic holiday, it has evolved into more of a secular holiday, celebrated with parties and green beer.

The main icon of the day is the shamrock. Its use extends from an Irish tale that tells how St. Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. It is said that he used it in his sermons to represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost and to show how each could exist as separate elements in the same entity.

St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in America in the early 1700s. On March 17, 1737, St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in Boston.

Some of the traditions that are held on this day, are, of course, the wearing of the shamrock. It is said that on this day, men should make a cross of a twig and wild sallow and pin it to the thatch inside the house or about the door.

Favourite practices include everyone going to the pub to drink after church, and giving treats and gifts to children and friends.

It is also said that you must begin your spring planting soon after St. Patrick's Day. Peas, apparently, are the best growers when planted on this day.

'Favourite practices include everyone going to the pub to drink after church, and giving treats and gifts to children and friends.'

All over the world, you'll find pubs decorated with shamrocks and serving green beer. On this day, every man, woman and child becomes Irish and has a grand old time.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Canadian Tire donation helps computer labs

It's a gift that should make a difference at Niagara College for many years to come.

A donation from Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd. will help create a new $1.5 million Technology Innovation Centre at the college's Welland campus.

The new Canadian Tire Technology Innovation Centre was opened yesterday at a special ceremony attended by Dan Patterson, college president, and Tom Gauld, president of Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd., of Welland.

Besides the Canadian Tire donation, which was matched by the Ontario government's Access To Opportunities Initiative, "significant support" came from Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc. and Agilent Technologies, a division of Hewlett-Packard.

When completed, the installation will be valued at more than $1.5 million.

The new labs, in the Lundy wing of the Welland campus, will enable college students to work with state-of-the-art technologies in order to better prepare for the technological workplace.

During the ceremony, Patterson had praise for the Welland company.

"It's because of the vision of forward - looking companies such as Canadian Tire Acceptance Limited that we are able to better serve the needs of Niagara industry," he said in a press release issued Wednesday.

"We believe in win-win and this is the best example possible of industry and education working together.

"We couldn't be more delighted with the incredible leadership that Canadian Tire Acceptance Limited has shown. They have really come to the table, and what's more, brought some of their partners with them to maximize the opportunities for our students," Patterson said in his release.

"For years, Canadian Tire Acceptance Limited has had a very close partnership with Niagara College," said Gauld, who is chair of the college's Board of Governors.

"At Canadian Tire Acceptance Limited, we also work hard to develop the leadership capabilities of our people and it's an integral part of our mission to create customers for life and deliver products and services that are second-to-none," said Gauld in the college press release. "When we were asked to partner in this opportunity to develop future leaders, it was a natural fit for us and we were happy to help."

"Please join with me in wishing Leo Tiberi (director of the Communications and Information Technology Division) and his team all the best as they strive to capitalize on this great opportunity for the benefits of our students," Patterson added in his press release.

"Today is a great day for our students," said Tiberi in a press statement yesterday.

'Industry in general will be impressed with the knowledge and skills of our grads.'
— Leo Tiberi

"The contributions provided by the province (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities), along with the tremendous industry support provide our students with access to world-class hardware and software.

"Industry in gereral will be impressed with the knowledge and skills of our grads," Tiberi added.

In addition to the cash donation, Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd. will fund new scholarships for students in computer technology programs at the college.

The comprehensive package of entrance scholarships, intra-year advancement scholarships and graduation scholarships will serve students at all levels of their academic program.

Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd. will work with college administrators to select those students who share the same values of dignity, honesty, integrity and respect that Canadian Tire Acceptance Limited cultivates in its employees.

In addition, Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd. will create co-op placement opportunities for equipment purchases and maintenance.

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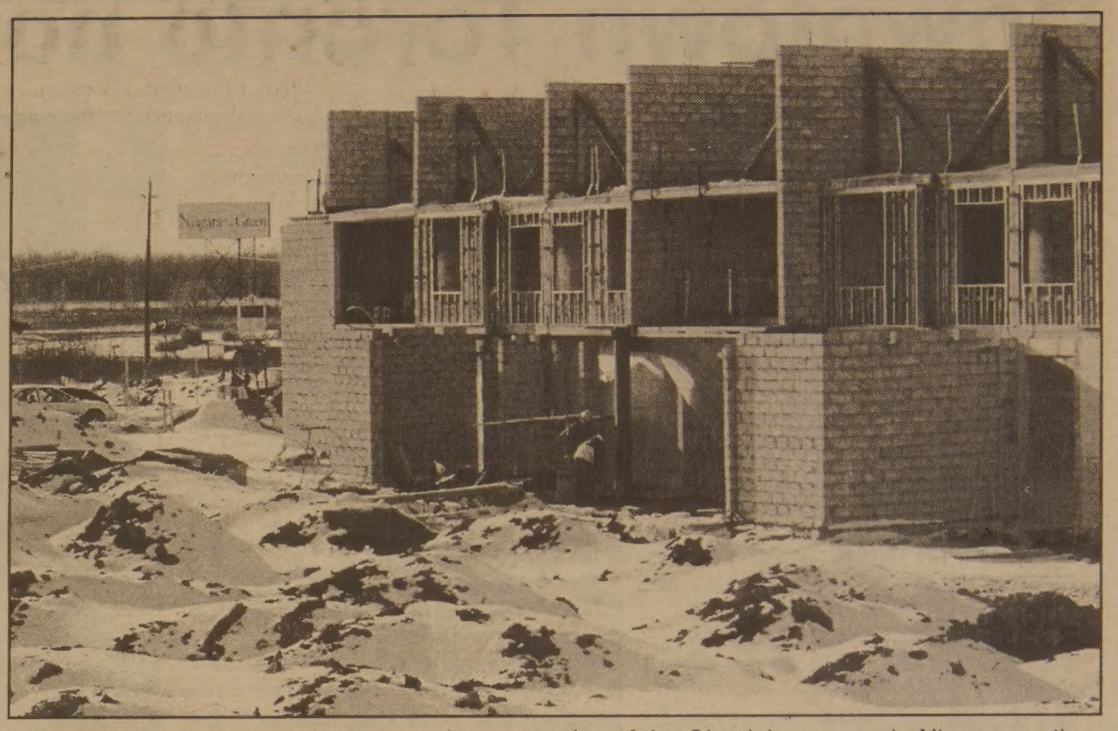


A break in the winter has allowed speedy construction of the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake residence. The residence is to open in time for the begining of the fall 2000 semester.

Photo by Matt Holley

Patterson 'pleased' by decision

Continued from front

While a government-imposed cap on tuition increases is not new — last year tuition rates were capped at 10 per cent — the following year's rate was not known in advance.

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, said he was "pleased" with the government's decision to stabilize tuition rates for five years as it will enable students to plan for the cost of their education with more certainty.

"The government has listened to students and colleges and recognizes affordability is an issue."

Patterson acknowledged he was surprised by the announcement, and said he had no indication that the government was about to make this policy statement until he received a call from the deputy minister of training, colleges and universities at noon on Tuesday.

Despite the timing of the announcement, Patterson said he believes it allows sufficient time for college administrators to factor these guidelines into the draft budget before Thursday night's board meeting.

Not everyone is as pleased as Patterson.

Niagara Centre MPP Peter Kormos called Cunningham's announcement "disgraceful," adding, "Students and their families should be outraged."

Kormos said the two-per-cent cap amounts to "a guarantee" tuition will increase a further 10 per cent over the next five years.

Kormos said the government should not only freeze tuition at current levels, but also introduce measures to decrease the tuition students pay.

Marie Bountrogianni, Hamilton-Mountain MPP and Liberal critic for colleges and universities, said she's concerned about the government's decision to tie funding to KPI results.

"There are lots of reasons why students drop out that don't have anything to with colleges' or universities' performance," she said.

Graduate employment are based on the employment status of post-secondary graduates as measured six months after graduation. Bountrogianni said that using these graduate employment rates as part of the new performance funding "is unfair." She explained that in some programs, such as arts programs, it is not unusual for graduates to take up to two years to find employment.

Bountrogianni said the only "good news" in Tuesday's announcement was the two-per-cent cap on tuition. Bountrogianni had planned to introduce a private members' bill into the provincial legislature later this spring, calling for a complete freeze on tuition rates for colleges and universities.

Home and Garden TV will attend annual Horticultural Open House

Niagara College's 32nd annual Horticultural Open House is expanding beyond the Greenhouse Centre into Niagara College's main Glendale campus building in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On March 18 and 19, special exhibits, demonstrations and landscape gardening information will be supplied by local organizations from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Featured guests include Kathy Renwald, producer and host of the Gardener's Journal on Home and Garden Television. She attended Niagara College in the early 1970s. She will deliver an illustrated talk at 1 p.m. Saturday entitled Tough Plants for Terrible Sites. Also on March 18, Bruce Zimmerman, of CKTB Radio, will broadcast live on location from the Greenhouse Centre from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tours of the college are available.

"The open house is an excellent opportunity for students and staff of the Landscape Technician and Horticulture Technician programs to display their talents and skills," said John Howard, manger of campus development. "We invite prospective students and other members of the community to visit us to learn about the horticulturally related courses and programs offered at Niagara College."

The Glendale campus, located at Taylor Road and Glendale Avenue in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is a unique 68-acre living laboratory that will include an arboretum, demonstration and interpretive wetlands, demonstration vineyard, aboriginal garden, community gardens and display areas.

DRINK + DRIVE = DEAD

Dramatic change of life after accident

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

His friend got into the front passenger seat. Later, firefighters had to remove him from the rear of the vehicle because a pole had shoved him back during a traffic accident on July 31, 1992.

Ed O'Connor, 37, of St. Catharines, attended a Blue Jays baseball game in Toronto with his long-time friend, Steven. The pair went for dinner before the game and O'Connor said they had about six beers.

O'Connor said he fell asleep at the wheel while driving through Oakville on his way home after the game, and his car slammed into a highway lamppost. O'Connor stepped out of the vehicle unaware he was suffering from two broken arms and broken ribs.

When he realized his friend was still in the vehicle, O'Connor checked on him, only to find he'd been thrown into the back of the vehicle by the force of the collision. He had no vital signs and was pronounced dead on the scene.

'I have a criminal record from my actions, but it wasn't wilful. It's the law that makes you a criminal.'
— Ed O'Connor

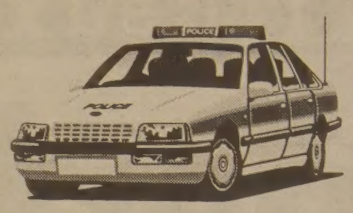
O'Connor was charged and convicted of impaired driving causing death and sentenced to three and a half years in the Kingston Penitentiary.

After serving nine months in prison and seven months in a halfway house and having been supported by his family and friends, including the victim's family, O'Connor said that although the emotional side is always with him, he has "dealt with the accident."

"Drinking was never a major part of my life," said O'Connor, adding that his life has "changed dramatically" since the accident.

O'Connor was on parole for two and a half years. His conditions of release stated he had to abstain from alcohol until he completed his sentence and had to follow a correctional plan.

Speaking on his experience of being incarcerated, O'Connor said there are major problems within the institutions. As a "model inmate," he said he felt "cold and lonely and (I) was stripped of any freedoms and rights." O'Connor said there are tremendous racial and peer pressures, including pressure from guards and institutional staff.



He doesn't consider himself a criminal because there was no intent to do the crime. "I have a criminal record from my actions, but it wasn't wilful. It's the law that makes you a criminal."

O'Connor began to speak publicly in November 1992 about drinking and driving. He has talked to more than 10,000 high school and university students from Niagara to Toronto. O'Connor said he wants to "turn a tragic situation into a positive one" by telling his story.

He said the severity of the accident was a "wake-up" call for him and it made him take an inventory of his life.

His advice to anyone who does drink is to "be honest with yourself" and to ask, "Are we drinking tonight? Who's driving?"

New program for convicted drunk drivers

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Consider your car a weapon and alcohol the bullets.

Smashed, loaded, drunk, any way you put it, drinking and driving do not mix.

According to the Traffic Injury Research Association (TIRF), of every 100 legally impaired drivers who die in road crashes nationally, more than 75 have blood alcohol concentrations two or more times above the legal limit of .08.

To reach double the legal limit, a man weighing 176 pounds would have to consume more than seven drinks in an hour. A woman weighing 125 pounds would reach double the legal limit after consuming five drinks in an hour.

One person is killed every six hours and, in that same time, another 30 Canadians will be seriously injured. Statistics Canada figures show that an average of 4.5 Canadians are killed and 125 are seriously injured each and every day.

Niagara Against Drunk Driving (NADD) held its second annual meeting at the Ramada Parkway Hotel in St. Catharines on March 1.

President of NADD Gord Horne said impaired driving is a "serious problem throughout all communities." Horne added that NADD "believes that solving this problem is through education. Drunk driving has no religious or age barriers."

A set of keys dangles in a margarita glass behind the word STOP. This is NADD's logo in hopes of reducing death and injury caused by driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Alan Hough, detachment commander for the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), said that in 1999, of the 965 cars that went through R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Drivers Everywhere), 371 people were given a 12-hour suspension and 221 people were charged with drunk driving. These statistics are for the entire Niagara Region.

Stopping drinking and driving through the Niagara Region has become a big part of the business plan for the Niagara Regional Police Service. The plan will include an increase in the number of ride checks that are currently done.

Superintendent Henry Harley, who is the department commissioner, said that a grant for $1.2 million has been given in order to operate R.I.D.E. programs.

'Drinking and driving is always one of those 'it will never happen to me' things.'
— Henry Harley

"Drinking and driving is always one of those 'it will never happen to me' things," said Harley."If you are going to drink and drive, we'll supply the chaser."

The conference included two speakers: a convicted drunk driver, Ed O'Connor, and Barbara McKay, director of Back on Track. O'Connor lost a long-time friend who died in an accident in Oakville while returning to St. Catharines from a baseball game in Toronto. Back on Track is a province-wide remedial measures program for convicted impaired drivers and is managed by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

McKay addressed the audience about the importance of remedial programs, their goals and initial feedback.

Since 1998 the Back on Track program has assessed offenders to determine whether they should be assigned to an education or treatment program. Six months after the program is completed, they must complete a follow-up program. If they fail to comply with the terms within the program, they fail the program. The user fees cover the cost of the program, which is $475 plus GST.

Backgrounder

— NADD is a community-based, volunteer organization.

— It is dedicated to reducing death and injury caused by driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

— There is a new program called the "back on track" education program that all first-time convicted impaired offenders must attend in order to get their licence back.

— After Oct. 1, all first-time offenders will have to complete the education program, the assessment and the follow-up interview.

— Currently, all repeat offenders must complete all components of the program.

Riding the Riff IV, Local Musician Supplement
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THE STRENGTH WITHIN

Martial arts karate boosts self-awareness

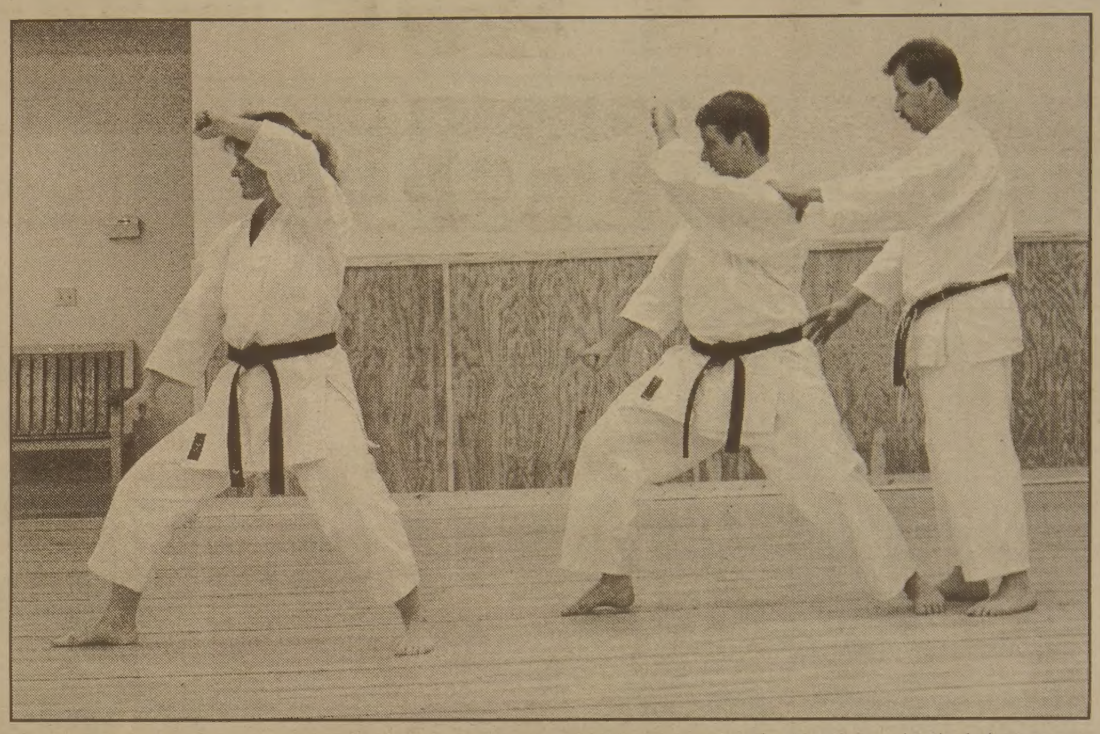
Martial arts skills help one develop self-discipline, control, confidence, strength, power, flexibility, stamina, and fitness

By MIKE DILTS
Staff Writer

They're defending themselves on Asher Street.

That's what people of all ages are learning at the new Midwest Karate Club at the corner of Burgar and Asher streets in Welland.

"We are hoping to expose Welland to the martial art traditional karate," said Sensei Rick Jorgensen, a sixth-degree black belt who helped established the Midwest Karate Club. He says he hopes people will enjoy training at the new club.



Sensei Rick Jorgensen guides his students, Cathy Smith and Peter Smith, throught their lesson at the Midwest Karate Club.

Photo by Mike Dilts

The Midwest Karate Club is a non-profit organization that teaches martial art skills, and also helps with self-confidence, self-control/discipline, stress/tension relief, co-ordination/flexibility, strength/power and fitness/fun.

In January the doors were opened for adults, youth and children to learn karate from instructors who hold various levels of black belts. The karate club's spacious room and sprung hardwood floor make for an ideal environment for anyone to learn the art of karate.

Hollywood has glamorized karate through actors, such as Jean Claude Van Damme's and Steven Segal's, beating people up and breaking necks, but that's not what Jorgensen wants to teach. He said he feels it's not about being a tough guy. It's about hard work and discipline, he added.

"It's about learning about your strengths and weaknesses and developing that, so that you are more aware of your environment," said Jorgensen. "You avoid danger instead of confronting it."

There are four different classes: adults' beginners class, ku rank (yellow to black belts), all ranks and kids' all belts. He recommends children should start at the age of five or six.

"My hope is that people really enjoy training here and I am able to share some of my experience in terms of my knowledge in martial arts," said Jorgensen.

On June 17, there will be a ceremony in Regina, Sask., for Jorgensen, who will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

"It's a surprise, but it's not something I was striving for," said Jorgensen. "I'm honoured because a lot of the people in the Hall of Fame are childhood heroes, like Johnny Bower (the National Hockey League legend)."

Jorgensen, who is from Saskatchewan, said he dedicated "a great deal" of his life to the promotion and development of traditional karate across Canada. He has coached numerous provincial, national and world champions throughout his coaching career.

"It makes me look back on some of the things that I have accomplished, but there's a lot to do in terms of my own development and my own pursuits."

For more in formation call the Midwest Karate Club at 732-3836.

Yoga exercise offers relief for stressed people

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

Because of today's busy lifestyles, stress affects millions of people. Complete relaxation can be reached, however, through an ancient East Indian ritual known as yoga.

The word yoga is derived from the Sanskrit root yuj meaning to "bind, join, attach and yoke, to direct and concentrate one's attention on, to use and apply." It also means union or communion.

'After pulling off a 14-hour day at work, meditation helps me simmer down and unwind.' — Jennifer Podmokly

Classical yoga includes a variety of techniques that help students achieve their personal goals while presenting new opportunities for expanding these goals.

The practice of yoga is the disciplining of the "intellect, the mind, the emotions, the will," which yoga assumes; it means a "poise of the soul which enables one to look at life in all its aspects evenly."

The techniques of yoga seek to bring into balance all the miscellaneous aspects of the body, mind and personality so the student ends up with "energy, strength and clarity of purpose supported by his whole being."

Yoga has been described as "wisdom in work or skilful living amongst activities, harmony and moderation."

Alexandra Baldasaro, 21, of Stoney Creek, says she practices the techniques of yoga to "unwind" and "clear" her mind when she is "under a lot of pressure."

"I love yoga," says Baldasaro. "It not only helps me relax but it's also a good form of exercise. Doing it for only 15 minutes a day totally re-energizes me."

Jennifer Podmokly, 24, of Toronto, says she has the "stressful" job of working for a "demanding" corporate executive of an advertising agency and finds, at the end of the day, meditation "helps reclaim" her sanity.

Podmokly says, "After pulling off a 14-hour day at work, meditation helps me simmer down and unwind."

"Yoga exercises are designed to efficiently improve muscle tone, limberness and circulation. It also strengthens the nervous system, which builds concentration, poise and a more stable, emotional nature," says Zaia Almakdah, a yoga instructor from Hamilton.

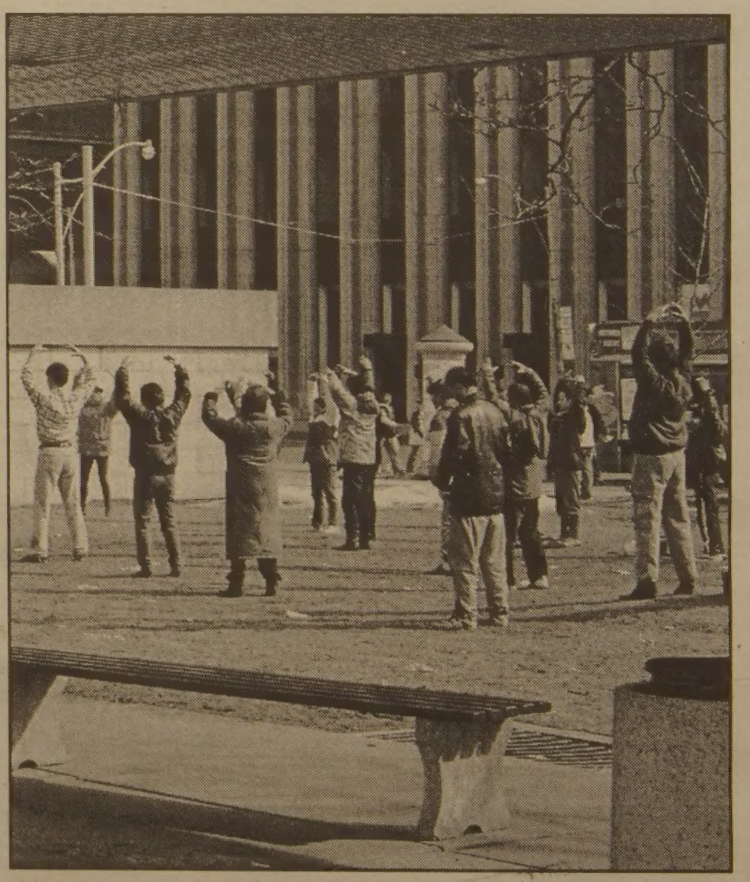
'Yoga has been described as wisdom in work or skilful living amongst activities, harmony and moderation.'

Various yoga breathing techniques help to speed recovery from stress reactions, relieve insomnia and improve concentration and stamina.

The student learns a total body relaxation technique followed by meditation, which is simply learning how to "quiet the mind" so it rests from daily stress.

Regular meditation practice teaches how to relax at will and also how to stimulate the "intuitive, creative and problem-solving capacities" that we all have but often don't use.

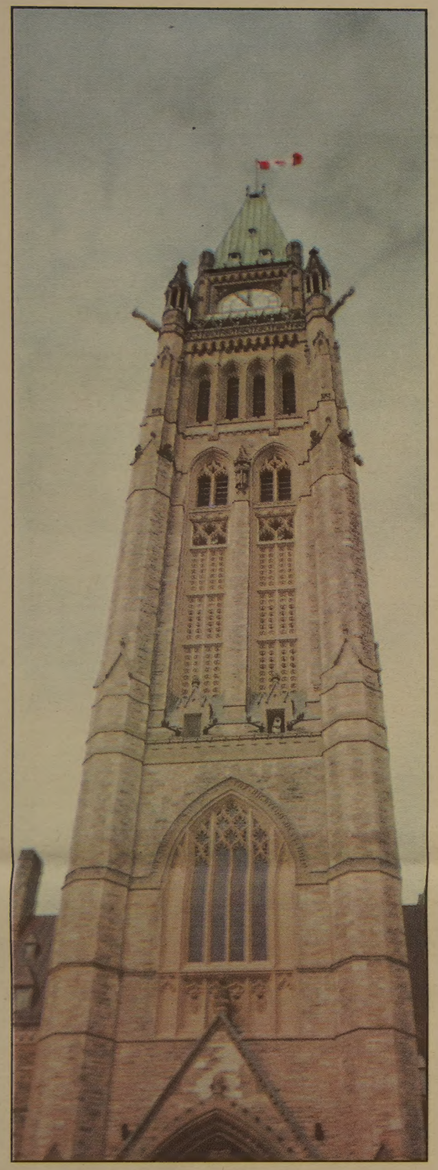
As a well-cut diamond has many facets, each reflecting a different colour of light, so does the word yoga. Each facet reflecting a different shade of meaning and reveals different aspects of the entire range of human attempts to win inner peace and happiness.



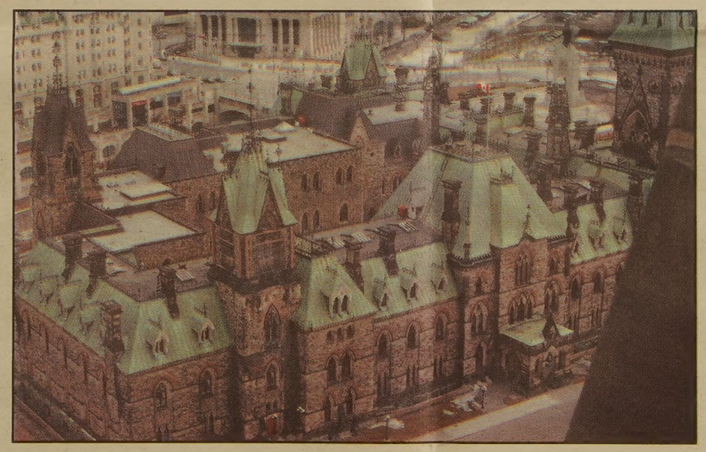
A lunch-time group, at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square, performs yoga exercises designed to improve muscle tone, flexibility, mental stability and circulation and to relieve stress. This event took place on Feb. 26.

Photo by Monica Paliniewicz

Photo Album of Parliament Hill

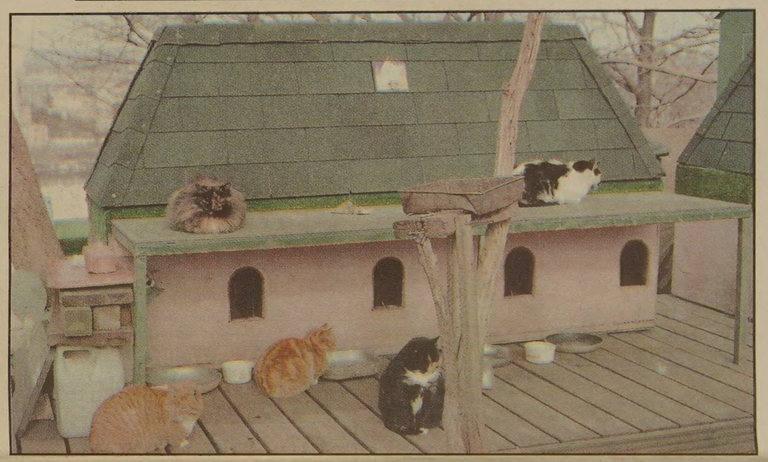


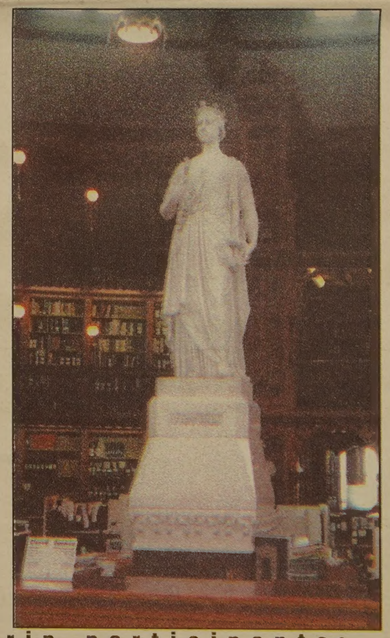
Top left and top right corners: Peace Tower at Parliament Hill
Above & right: Views from the Peace Tower
Above, right corner: One of the green-copper-roofed buildings along Wellington Street, an architecture for which Ottawa is known.



Below: Second-year Journalism students visiting Ottawa during Spring Break

Right: Rene Chartrand feeds the cats of Parliament Hill. To send donations to help the cats, mail them to: 1207-160 Charlotte St. Ottawa, Ont. K1N 8Z5





Right: The Statue of Queen Victoria in the Parliament Library

Photos by trip participants:
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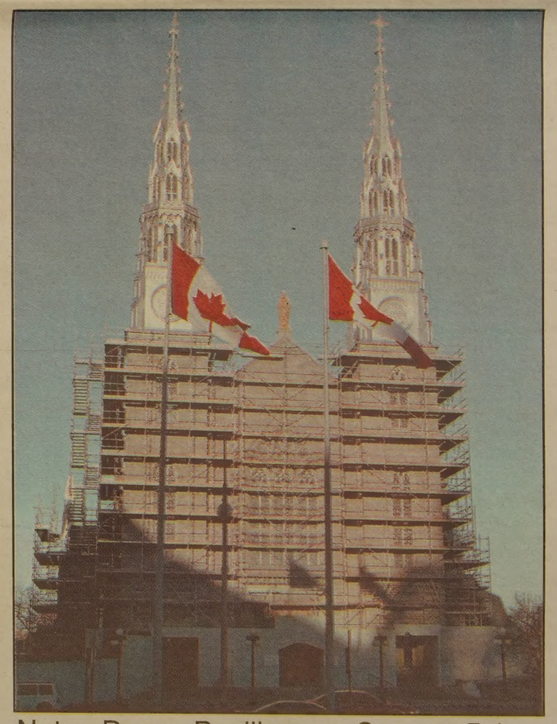
Mandi Speelman
Phyllis Barnatt
Gerald Ruch
Layout Design by:
Megan Ross



Notre Dame Basilica on Sussex Drive has been undergoing restoration in Ottawa's ongoing beautification efforts.

PROFILES

Boccinfuso running for SAC president

By SHANNON DEARY
Staff Writer

Leadership is on his mind and in his blood. In fact, he's heading for the centre of world leadership in Washington, D.C., as Canada's representative to the Youth World Leadership Conference March 18 to 25.

Jason Boccinfuso, 19, of Thorold, is running for president of the Student Administrative Council (SAC) at the Welland campus.

SAC is the governing and legislative body for all students in full-time day programs. Its members are elected annually as representatives of the student body. SAC is the liaison between the students and the administration.

To be considered an official candidate, students running for SAC elections must pick up an election kit from the SAC office and obtain a minimum of 25 student signatures. Elections will be held March 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Boccinfuso, a first-year student enrolled in the Police Foundations program, said he feels qualified to stand for the role of SAC president as he has an extensive knowledge of and experience with leadership. He was Grade 9 and 10 representative of his high school student council at Monsignor John Pereyma in Oshawa. He was student president for two years and sat on the regional student council.

"We organized leadership conferences and together discussed and informed other student presidents and executive members with our ideas and concerns."

He's not supposed to make any promises if he is elected, "but I assure everyone I will be a hard-working president, and I know how to voice concerns of the students and what steps to take from my experiences in high school."

Jason Boccinfuso, running for Student Administrative Council president, shakes hands with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien at last year's Forum for Young Canadians.

Submitted photo

Boccinfuso was selected to go to the White House to represent Canada for the Youth World Leadership Conference, in Washington, D.C., March 18 to 25.

The conference brings together delegates from countries around the world to discuss and learn about other governments. The students will stay at Georgetown University and will be addressed by speakers, including U.S. senators, ambassadors, and, depending on his schedule, U.S. President Bill Clinton. They will be discussing their roles as politicians.

Boccinfuso attended a seminar last year called the Forum for Young Canadians, a weeklong conference in Ottawa at Parliament Hill. He was selected, first, by a staff member from his high school and then by the board of education.

"We spent the week on Parliament Hill and visited the House of Commons and the Senate to meet the politicians and learned about the system of government."

Through these leadership programs, Boccinfuso said he feels he is more than qualified for the position of SAC president, but it is up to the students themselves to elect him.

He said his future plans are to finish the Police Foundations program next year and apply to police forces.

"I've been interested in the field of policing for a while, and I like helping out and interacting within the community."

His all-time goal, much later in life, he said, is to become a federal politician.

"Last year I had the chance to 'hang out' with a lot of the politicians, and I decided that I liked their role. It's much the same role, to a bigger extent, that I would fulfil here at Niagara College, if I am elected SAC president."

Titian's battle against sex shrines succesful

By JAMIE WHITE
Staff Writer

A graduate of Niagara College, Sharon Titian, screened her documentary of her experiences in Africa, on March 8.

An audience of about 75 students occupied the seats of the Hamilton Room for the 26-minute film.

Titian, 52, of Hamilton, graduated from the Social Service Worker program in 1986. She began her career working with Family and Children's Services, taking in troubled teens in the Niagara Region, where she helped to close down a group home abusing young offenders.

Through her actions with the group home, Titian helped to pass new legislation to protect young offenders from being abused.

Titian's real work began, however, when she moved to Ghana, Africa, at the age of 41.

She says she was asked to go to Ghana to establish a non-governmental organization for Ghanians living in Ottawa, and to establish a functional literacy program.

During the promotion of this literacy program, Titian became aware of the fetish trokosi shrines, which she fought to close down. This was the topic of her documentary.

Trokosi, "wife of God," shrines were prisons where girls as young as four were enslaved by priests to serve their god for crimes committed by their forefathers.

The documentary, produced by the Ghanians, showed the women as they went about their day in the shrine.

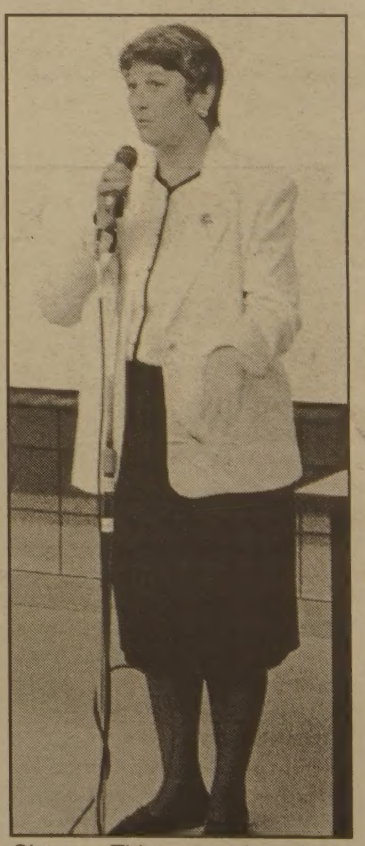
The families of these women would sacrifice their virgin daughters to the priests for fear if they didn't other family members would die.

The young women performed normal domestic chores for the priests until they became of age. At that time, they would become sex slaves to the priests.

The priests initiated women as young as 15 to these new duties.

The women were not provided with food, clothing, medical care or education. Food and clothing were the responsibility of their parents, who often didn't provide these essentials either.

The priests impregnated the women. The babies of the women were supposed to be taken by the women's parents, but were usually left in the shrines with their mothers and eventually served the priests.



Sharon Titian speaks about her experiences in Africa.

Photo by Jamie White

The women were forced to serve in the shrines for about 20 years. Once released they were left with no family contacts, no home, no food, no skills or education and no hope.

After learning about the shrines, Titian began her 10-year struggle to abolish these prisons.

"It was a long process," says Titian.

Titian says the local people she worked with were afraid to get involved, so she left them and established Missions International to try to educate and free the women.

"If it wasn't for my faith in the Lord, I wouldn't have been there," says Titian. "You have to learn to humble yourself."

In 1994, a member of Parliament from Ghana's Upper Volta Region asked her to provide documentation on the abuses suffered by the women, and her documentary was born.

Titian entered the shrines under the watch of the army and arranged for the women to give their testimonies on film. The priests were even fooled into talking about their shrines.

With the help of other non-governmental organizations in Ghana, legislation banning these shrines was passed in Parliament and became official in 1998.

"It took a lot of time for people to see change could be done," says Titian.

Titian established a vocational training centre in 1991 in the village of Adidome, in the Upper Volta Region, to train the women with employable skills. While most of the priests agreed to set the women free, Titian says some shrines still do exist and operate in secret. Often, she says, these remaining shrines are on small islands or remote parts of Ghana where they are isolated from the outside world.

Titian continues to raise funds for a permanent residential school. She completed a three-month North American tour in 1998 to raise money and awareness for the Missions International Vocational Training Centre, and continues to focus her efforts in the women who've survived the shrines.

HEALTH

Screening program beneficial for women

Screening and making women 50 years of age and older more aware

BY MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

It's all about making women aware through the Ontario Breast Screening program (OBSP).

Niagara College is joining with the Regional Niagara Public Health Unit to make women within the college and the region aware of OBSP.

Martha Casson, vice-president of enterprise and student services at Niagara College, says she had been approached by the Public Health Unit and asked, "How can colleges and universities who have students who have mothers who are or about to be 50 years old become more aware of the breast screening program here in the region?"

Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of deaths in women. The average woman has a one in nine chance of developing breast cancer in her lifetime.

Casson, a breast cancer survivor, says, "The participation in the program was low, and so it looked like a good public relations opportunity."

Carrie Dudley, 25, a Public Relations (Post-graduate) program student at Niagara College, is an intern at the Regional Niagara Public Health department and is developing a health promotion project for the program.

"My goal was to initiate the project so that future public relations students can continue to implement the project," she says.

Focus groups, each of which consisted of nine students, were organized by Dudley for each campus to gather information and to use the results to measure the progressive success, or failure, of the awareness campaign.

"It's to spark ideas on how one can reach their mothers and aunts, besides making themselves aware," says Dudley.

A random survey was also conducted. There were 102 surveys handed out to students and faculty; 63 surveys were returned, a return rate which impressed Dudley, but she was not so impressed by the results.

"The results showed there were a large number of the college community not aware (of the program), which is very unfortunate, since it is beneficial to women."

OBSP was introduced in 1989 with 10 organized centres across the province. OBSP, a program of Cancer Care cancer centres and is funded through the Public Health Branch of the Ministry of Health.

"The funds are outside of OHIP and not taking any money away from diagnosis and treatment," says Ruth Bakker, a public health nurse at the Regional Health Unit in Niagara Falls.

'Maybe the women who don't get screened fear the results of the mammogram will be bad.'
— Carrie Dudley

OBSP offers the women a mammography, physical examination of the breasts, information on breast self-examination and a reminder to return for screening.

She says, "Maybe the women who don't get screened fear the results of the mammogram will be bad."

The examination (including instruction in breast self-examination) takes about 15 to 20 minutes.

There is a 30 per cent reduction in death when 70 per cent of women 50 years of age and older are screened every two years in an organized program. Women who have a strong history of breast cancer, especially if it was diagnosed before the age of 50, are advised to return for screening in one year.

Mammography can detect small cancers before they can be felt. Early detection of breast cancer can save the lives of many women.

"Our goal is to target 70 per cent of the women in the Niagara area (about 43,000) 50 to 69 years of age to come and get screened," says Bakker.

Information from the St. Catharines site has shown 14 per cent of women in Niagara have now attended OBSP, which is a small percentage compared to the 70 per cent goal.

. . . 14 per cent of women in Niagara have now attended OBSP . . .

In 1997 a program opened at the Evangelista — Adams breast-screening centre at the St. Catharines General Hospital and then at the auxiliary women's health centre at Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls.

In the OBSP, a clinical breast examination is carried out by a specially trained nurse examiner.

Anyone who wishes to be screened, or has had her doctor refer her to be screened, must be 50 or older, and must make an appointment before going.

"Once they make the appointment there usually is a three- to four-week waiting period, and it's free of charge. The woman cannot have any history of breast cancer," says Bakker.

Other factors for eligibility are no breast implants and the person must be an Ontario resident.

Women who would like to make an appointment can call the St. Catharines General Hospital at 684-7271, ext. 6345, or the Greater Niagara General Hospital at 358-4952.

OBSP encourages women to have a family physician and to have open communication with their doctor about their breast health issues.

Women who self-examine their breasts at home must remember to do it regularly, to show any unusual changes to their doctor, to do a complete check each time and to examine their breasts every month.

Operating out of Salon Alessandro at 125 Ontario St., Charlene, 24, of St. Catharines, is using her haircutting skills from the Hairdressing program at Niagara College, on Shala Grant, 18, of Hamilton, outside of the Welland campus's Learning Resource Centre on March 13.
Photo by Tracey Allison

Blood donors needed

Staff and students at Niagara College's Welland campus have a chance to give the gift of life.

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) is sponsoring a blood donor clinic on Thursday, March 23, and Friday, March 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The event will take place at the student centre conference room at After Hours.

Staff and students who would like to donate are asked to make an appointment at the SAC office or call extension 7659.

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STUDENT INITIATIVES

Welland trio 'Plenty' happy with talk show

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered which side of a banana peel would make the most comfortable interior on a pair of pants? Of course not. Who in their right mind would?

Leave it to the members of Brock Radio CFBU 103.7 FM's The Horn of Plenty.

Every Tuesday at 8 p.m., Brad Holland, Beau Labute and Scott Remila invade the local airwaves with one hour of insightful conversation on the most mundane topics.

From their first topic, "gravy," in December, 1998, to the recent show discussing preferences for buttons or snaps on clothing, The Horn of Plenty has managed to put a live show together every week, even when it meant one member hosting the show alone.

"It's been done alone," said Remila 22, of Welland, "but it's pretty hard to have a conversation with yourself."

It is especially hard when conversations on the show have ranged from how to make your own shoes, to breakfast cereal mascots.

The hosts said the show is meant to be informative and open to any discussion. Although the conversations can be funny at times, they said they try to keep the discussion serious.

"We try to keep from laughing too much," said Holland, 22, of Fonthill.

"If you act like it's silly, it'll be no good, but it's cool if you can say it seriously."

Brad Holland (left) and Beau Labute discuss "fur" on their Tuesday night radio show, The Horn of Plenty. Absent from the roundtable conversation group was Scott Remila, of Welland.

Photo by Martin McQuaig

They said it was difficult to keep the topic serious when they hosted a show about recess. They invited a group of seventh and eighth grade students into the studio to discuss how recess has changed over the years. The idea didn't work the way they thought it would, with about 10 people in the booth trying to talk at the same time.

They say they will limit the number of on-air guests in the future.

Another show about chainsaws landed them in hot water when Labute's uncle demonstrated how to start one on the air.

The Horn of Plenty has had some personnel changes since its debut in 1998. Labute's brother, Zac, and the show's co-founder, Chris Payk, are no longer with them.

Beau Labute said his brother left the show because he felt he couldn't give a "100 per cent" commitment.

Bread, raking leaves, Christmas lights and Metallica (as in the band) have all been mulled over by the Brock University students, who have also done a show before a live audience at Mind Bomb, a pub in St. Catharines.

"We always try to be conscious," said Holland. "We try to be informative sometimes, like when we did a show about head-injury prevention."

Labute, Holland and Remila said they will keep doing the show as long as they can come up with fresh ideas.

One of their "freshest" ideas was a show about urinal pucks, in which a urinal puck salesman from Fonthill came in and allowed them to sample different varieties.

"A pretty narrow topic is best," said Remila.

"We like stuff that we can debate and compare."

What is their all-time favourite Horn of Plenty show?

They said it was the time they made up two teams of famous monsters from legend and film, and pitted them against each other in a variety of contests. The monsters were divided into two teams of 10, based on weight and fear value.

"It wouldn't have been fair to have the Loch Ness Monster take on Frankenstein," said Remila.

The Horn of Plenty said doing a radio program is fun and has allowed them to meet a lot of people. They recommended Niagara College students try to get involved with their new station, CRNC 90.1 FM.

"Just don't steal our idea," said Holland.

Bake sale at Welland campus raises money for I-CAN-T.E.R. Niagara

Students hoped to raise about $200 for local charity

By VICKI HARTLEN
Staff Writer

A bake sale at the Niagara College Welland campus raised money for "I CAN" Therapeutic Equestrian Riding Association of Niagara.

The fund-raiser, which is part of the Human Relations program, was co-ordinated by a group of four students.

"We picked 'I CAN' as our fund-raiser because a girl in our group did a co-op there and we all agreed it was a good cause," said Shannon Fast, 20, of the Human Relations program at the Welland campus.

I-CAN-T.E.R. is an organization that allows mentally disabled children to ride horses as a form of therapy and relaxation.

Shannon Fast, a second-year-student in the Human Relations program, serves students at the I-CAN-T.E.R. bake sale at the Welland campus on March 14.

Photo by Robert Lapensée

The group baked all of the goods sold at the bake sale, which included cookies, fudge, bread and sweets.

"Everyone in the group baked something," said Fast. "Our family and friends helped too."

The expectations for the fund-raiser were to raise "about $200" for "I CAN."

Fast said she and her group felt that goal was realistic and possible.

Buyers of the goodies were pleased with their purchases.

"It's good and filling," said Dean Ruffo, 21, computer programming. Ruffo bought Rice Krispies squares from the bake sale.

"It's really rich," said Ryan Bridgeman, 19, computer programming, who also bought the squares.

"We advertised by making flyers and hanging them wherever we could. We also made big posters to let people know," said Fast.

Fast said that they hoped the response from the students and staff would be good, and that it had been so far.

Brock university gets science database upgrade in library

By JENNIFER MAGO
Staff Writer

Brock University, in St. Catharines, has had a new upgrade in its databases, known as Science Direct.

"These are very important databases," said Margaret Grove, Brock University librarian.

These new databases contain the full text of 1,100 scholarly journals from Elsevier Science, including 750,000 journal articles from 1995 to the present and more than 1.8 million abstracts.

"It's one of the largest in the world of science."

Grove said the Elsevier Journals are among the most authoritative and prestigious in their subject areas.

For the university to get Science Direct it entered into an agreement with the University of Toronto. Brock had to first sign a legal document and a license agreement, which included the conditions of use. The cost for the new databases was covered by the university and alumni.

Students, staff and faculty have 24-hour-a-day access to the databases by using their IP address. The community also has free access by visiting the university's library.

The information in the databases is stored on a server at the University of Toronto.

Science Direct has an international authorship and readership. It includes journals on science, technology, medicine and social science.

Grove said she feels it enhances the value and prestige of the library.

"It's truly impressive."

To find out more about Brock's new Science Direct databases, visit the university's Web site at www.brocku.ca.flashlibraryflash.

BEWARE
www.SECRETSOCIETIES.ORG

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Yellowknife makes Canadian north breathtaking for all

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

It came into view. It grew bigger, danced slowly, and finally formed the great one. In a flash, it ran toward the core and it was gone.

This phenomenon arose one night in Canada's far north.

Two sisters witnessed it.

Asami Nogusa, 21, and her sister, Masami, 15, of Japan, travelled to Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories to see the Northern Lights during the March break.

Masami, who lives in Japan, passed the entrance exams for high school in February. In Japan, the school year begins in April. She got a big reward from her parents – a ticket to Canada, to visit her sister who's studying at Niagara College.

During her sister's visit, Asami planned a trip to Yellowknife.

Upon first seeing "the art of nature . . . I just went blank. It's beyond description," said Asami.

"At first, it looked like the exhaust plume. I personally didn't think it's beautiful. I got a creepy taste of it, I should say."

She soon relaxed and became mesmerized by the mysterious power undulating in the dark sky, she added.

Remarking on the unforgettable moment, Asami said, "We had a good experience. I'm glad we went all the way up to Yellowknife."

She said they didn't experience extreme cold. It was about -10 Celsius during their four-day visit, although -44 Celsius has been recorded in Yellowknife this year.

She said they were "very" lucky to see the Northern Lights every night they were there.

"We've seen billions of stars. I've never seen it before in my entire life," Asami said.

Out of three nights, she said, the first night was the best because, the cloudless sky made for ideal conditions by which to watch the Northern Lights.

"It (the real Northern Lights) looks different from this," she said, looking at her picture.

According to a guide, Asami said, yellowish-green is the most common colour the Northern Lights radiate.

Other than that, the reflection of light creates blue and purple, but rarely red.

The shapes of the Northern Lights are named, such as a curtain, a bow and a corona.

Northern Lights occur because of friction between the earth's magnetic power and the sun's energy bursts. This friction appears donut-shaped above both the North Pole and South Pole, as if it were floating, thus causing the spectacular light display.

The year 2000 is one in 11 years when the sun's activity is most powerful, causing a high frequency of Northern Lights' appearances.

That's one of the reasons the "Northern Lights tour" has been increasing in popularity among Japanese tourists, said Asami, adding people she saw there were mostly Japanese and Asian tourists.

"Not many people prefer to travel to the north spending quite an amount of money."

The tour package included making Indian crafts and taking dogsled rides.

She said before going for a dogsled ride, she thought it was cruel to let dogs run, but she learned from their trainers that they were born to run.

"(The) dogs were willing to run, so I stopped feeling sorry for them."

Asami said life in Yellowknife is quite different from modern living in more southerly locations.

Because the communities are isolated from major cities, all the groceries are imported from Edmonton, Alta. She said they were repeatedly told to save water and lights.

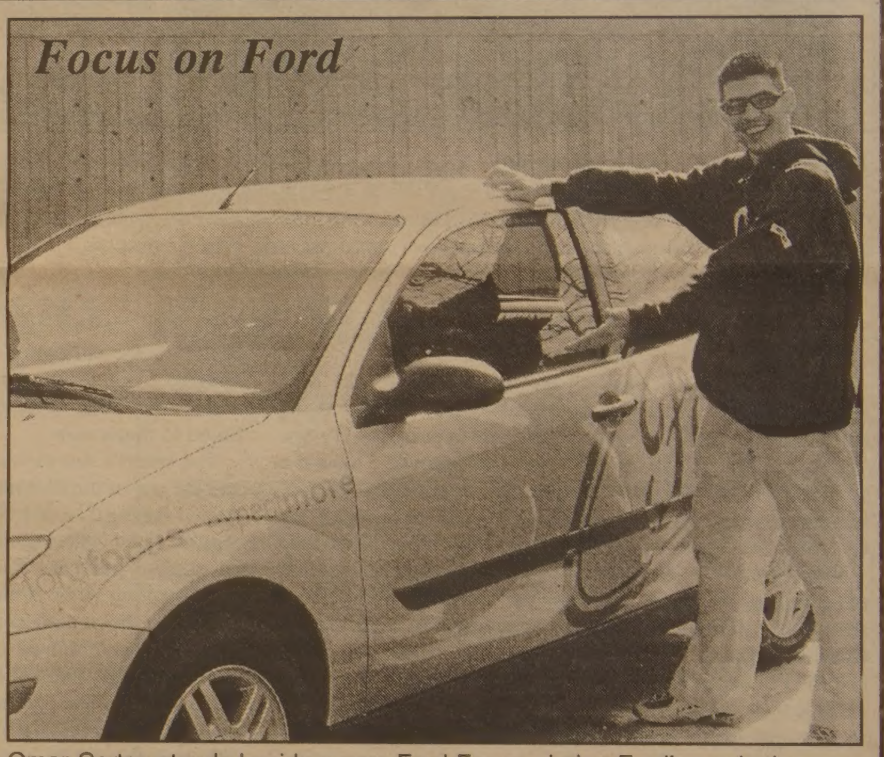
"The cost of living would be very expensive. I cannot imagine living there."

Japanese sisters Asami (left) and Masami Nogusa witnessed the Northern Lights in Yellowknife during the Break Week.

Submitted photo

Sylvia Marotta, Niagara College campus store clerk, stands in front of Martha Washington geraniums. The flowers came from the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and sell for $5.49. This weekend there will be an open house for the Horticulture Centre and Glendale campus.

Photo by Mark Garrett



Omar Cortez stands beside a new Ford Focus, during Ford's marketing promotion at Niagara College on Feb. 21. Cortez was trying to get his picture put on a sticker, a promo idea used by Ford to draw attention to its new model.

Photo by Shannon Mastaler

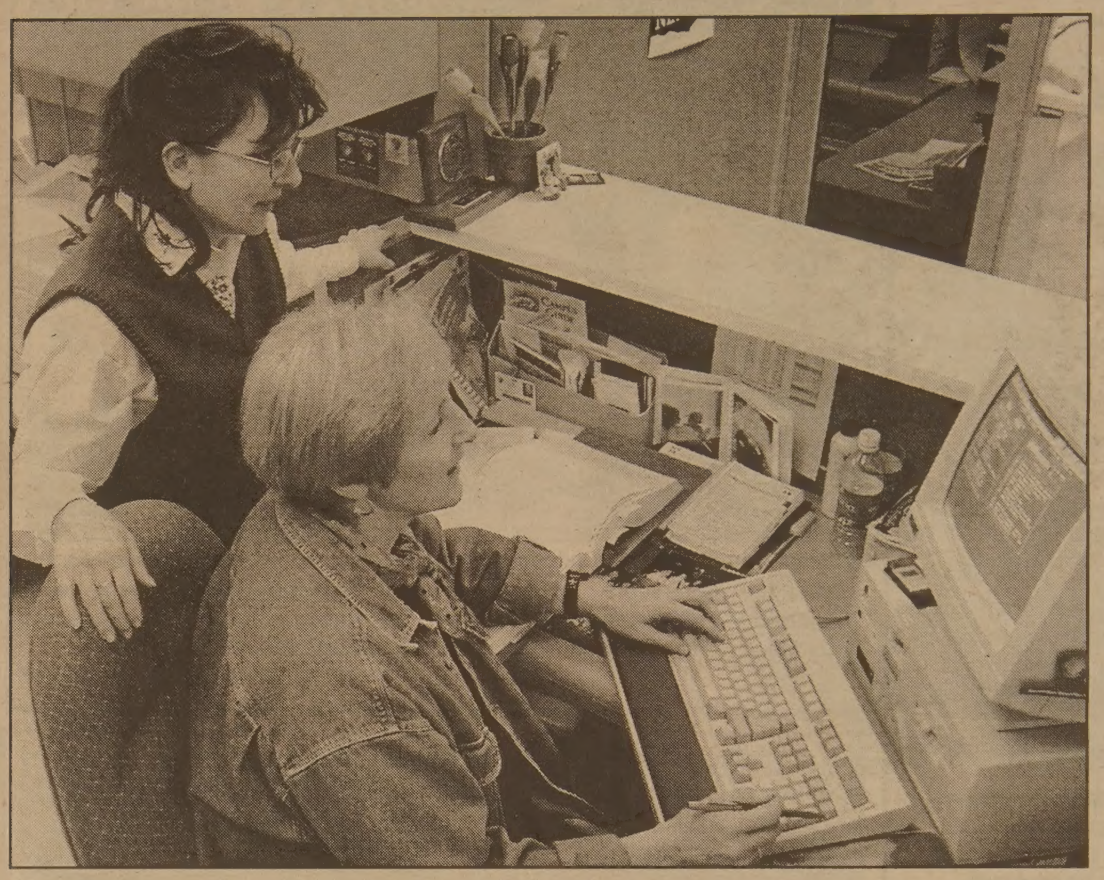
Parent Education Night

hosted by Niagara College Child Care Centre
Thursday, April 6, 2000
7 p.m.
Secord Room, Niagara College
Special guest speaker: James Cloughley

Look for full coverage of Niagara College's Budget 2000-2001 and a SuperBuild update in next week's edition of the Niagara News.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

College spends surplus to buy new software



Tracey Borisenko (left), registration clerk, and Carol Desrochers, registration assistant, update student records as part of their job in the Office of the Registrar, located at the Welland campus. As part of the installation of a new computer-based information system called PeopleSoft, students themselves will be able to access their own personal records and timetables.

Photo by Sam Bayly

How PeopleSoft can help the college

Students
- apply for admission
- view class schedules
- register for classes
- add and drop classes
- e-mail instructors
- check their financial account
- obtain grades
- schedule appointments with counsellors
- change biographical and demographical information

Faculty
- obtain their teaching schedule
- view personnel directory
- obtain class lists
- verify attendance
- post classroom assignments on the Web
- exchange e-mail with individual students or groups

Employees
- view the personnel directory
- view the budget
- view minutes of committees and boards, policies and procedures and handbooks
- complete a purchase requisition or order online and send onwards for approval
- check the status of all orders
- make budget transfers on-line
- view vacation and sick banks
- change biographical or demographical information
- enter budgets and analyze with current revenue/ expenses
- perform what-if budget scenarios

Source: Marketing and Communications, Niagara College

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Niagara College is shaking the piggy bank to pay for a new, integrated information system to allow staff and students better access to electronic records kept by the college.

Niagara College's Board of Governors approved a motion to purchase PeopleSoft software and to use the college's $2.2-million accumulated surplus toward the $2.9-million price-tag and costs associated with its installation, during its Feb. 17 meeting.

When in place, PeopleSoft will replace three existing, independent computer systems: the student administration system, the human resources management system and the financial system. The new systems are scheduled to be installed between May 2000 and August 2001.

"Not to keep up with information systems is not to survive," said Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, commenting on the board's decision, in a later interview.

Patterson said the existing computer software is "no longer up to the job" and is "absolutely convinced that the homework on this was done."

He said the college's decision to look at options for replacing the current systems began after a joint effort by Niagara College, the Ontario College Application Service and several other colleges to develop a replacement system failed to materialize.

The board's discussion about the purchase of PeopleSoft and the use of the accumulated surplus to pay for it was conducted during a closed-door session of the board prior to the regular open meeting, on Feb. 17. The motion the board adopted to purchase PeopleSoft was approved during the open meeting without further discussion by board members. However, the motion as approved did not mention using the college's accumulated surplus to pay for the purchase. Neither did the Feb. 22 issue of *In Touch With Change*, the college's in-house communications newsletter published by the president's office, mention the accumulated surplus although the entire issue was devoted to explaining new information systems.

The *Niagara News* first learned of plans to use the accumulated surplus for this purchase when approached by board member David Miskolczi, labour representative, immediately after the Feb. 17 meeting.

In subsequent interviews college officials sought to clarify this decision.

"Because we were looking at a number of alternative vendors we (the college) thought it was appropriate for board members to discuss — in camera — some of the implications. In addition, dealing with a number of vendors could affect our positions in negotiations," Patterson said.

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration, said using the accumulated surplus to purchase PeopleSoft is not a change in board policy since the surplus was established "to cover the costs of unforeseen events."

"The board never took the position that the college could not use that surplus."

Van der Slagt said the college will, in the future, continue to work toward "the reasonable goal" of having a $1.5 million surplus.

"I wish the surplus was bigger, but I don't think this puts us at risk," van der Slagt said.

United Way celebrates year's achievements

1999 fund-raising campaign raised $912,473

By MARY KOTSOPOULOS
Staff Writer

The United Way of South Niagara held its 36th annual meeting in Welland on Feb. 23, 2000.

In her second term as president of the board of directors is Kimberly Ferri, of Niagara Financial Group. The 15 members for the 2000-2001 board of directors were announced. They are David Alexander, Vance Badaway, Matt Botden, Paul Bray, Scott Brown, Barb Campbell, Rick Chandler, Celine Hardy, Chuck Kaufman, Ferri, Claude Leduc, David Pastirik, Patricia Pokorny, Dr. David Robert and Len Stolk.

Ferri provided an overview of the 1999 achievements and plans for 2000.

Ferri acknowledged the many individuals who volunteered during the past year for the United Way. Mel Groom, an investment adviser with RBC Dominion Securities, was singled out for her assistance during the 1999 campaign, which raised $912,473.

Paul Bray, chair of the 1999 allocations committee, was recognized for his leadership during this campaign. Bray determines how the money raised in 1999 will be spent in 2000.

Awards were presented at the

United Way of South Niagara

meeting for employees and companies who did not complete their campaigns in time for the Victory Rally presentation in November.

Best Overall Campaign Award: corporate sector went to John Deere Welland Works and the public sector award to Niagara College.

These groups had the highest total dollar campaign in their sectors.

Honourable mention went to Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd., for the second largest campaign. Atlas Specialty Steels and Gencorp Vehicle Sealing tied as the third largest campaigns. General Motors had the largest transfer-in campaign dollars.

The regional campaigns at District School Board of Niagara, Enbridge Consumers Gas and the Regional Municipality of Niagara were acknowledged for their support and co-operation.

ADM Milling, of Port Colborne, Gencorp Vehicle Sealing, and Vesuvius/Premier shared most improved campaign awards.

Other awards went to the following: Spirit Award: Country Corner Meat and Deli.

Best Workplace Event: Canadian Tire Acceptance, 9th Annual Golf Classic.

Best Student Campaign Results: Niagara College Students and Council.

Best New Initiatives: Port Colborne Jaycees Golf Tournament and Gencorp's "Joker's Wild."

Most Fun Workplace Event: Welland County General Hospital, Lobsterfest.

BE YOUR OWN BOSS

BDC offers money, advice to new businesses

Community-based one-stop location for start-up assistance

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Self-employment may be an option for graduating students to consider.

Colin Pett, general manager of the Business Development Centre (BDC) of Greater Fort Erie, said, as students prepare to go on in the career field of their choice, there are challenges and opportunities to grasp.

Pett spoke to second-year Niagara College Journalism-Print program students on March 10, about the pros and cons of being self-employed.

He said the risks of being self-employed centre on remuneration. "Your pay is not secure. It can be irregular and even non-existent at the end of the day." Another risk is what Pett called the "stool analogy." A stool has five legs. If you take any one leg away the stool will be unstable. Each leg represents different responsibilities of running a business: accounting, production, marketing, sales and legalities. He said in business "you have to wear more than one hat," or the business will be unstable.

Time demands are more difficult in some cases, he said.

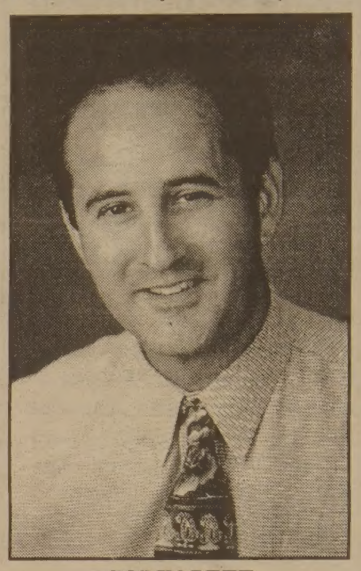
"Definitely, self-employed people, especially just starting out can be amazed by the time demands of being self-employed, and the time that you don't get paid for."

He said people don't realize when going into self-employment that they will not be paid for the time it takes to do administration, marketing or even driving from one place to another in order to get the job done.

'Don't undervalue your services. Try to attune yourself to the market place.'

Keeping up with technology and making equipment purchases are another challenge, he said, explaining how he experienced it himself while self-employed.

The rewards of being self-employed are that you may be able to make more money because you don't have an employer to "take a slice." You can set the amount you want to earn by how many hours you work. You have more flexibility with time and finances. Technology can "level the playing field." It can allow a small operation, or one individual, to deliver the same service, product or quality as a larger business.



COLIN PETT

There are some programs to assist those considering self-employment.

The BDC, at 45 Jarvis St., Fort Erie, has been in operation since 198. About 58 organizations like the BDC exist in Ontario and have a total loan fund of about $92 million, which has resulted in about 50,000 jobs.

The BDC is a non-profit organization that was originally federally funded. Now it is financially self-sufficient, based on loan and investment revenues.

The BDC is a one-stop location for start-up and business expansion, delivery of self-employment programs, free business counselling, facilities and resource material.

The BDC loan fund has provided about $6 million to Fort Erie businesses, affecting 1,000 jobs.

The largest problem for self-employed people is cash flow management, Pett said.

He explained that when you go into your own business it's always smarter to create a business plan.

"It makes you ask questions you wouldn't ask otherwise.

"Don't undervalue your services. Try to attune yourself to the marketplace," he said, on working for others when self-employed.

"It's easy to start with low rates, but be cautious . . . Make sure your hourly rate accounts for all your time."

The BDC delivers programs such as the Self-Employment Benefit program, which allows individuals to start a new business while receiving employment insurance benefits.

"We offer similar programs through Ontario Works and the Niagara Opportunities Fund."

Pett said he's "amazed" at the amount of growth the Niagara region will be experiencing in the next five years and that "the amount of construction and new ventures that will be introduced to the region is stunning. There may be up to 50,000 new jobs in the next five years."

Graduate continues education in business on sandy shores

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Florida is a place where most people move when their working years are over. For one Niagara College graduate, moreover, the opportunity to attend university in the sun and sand of West Palm Beach, Fla., is just the beginning.

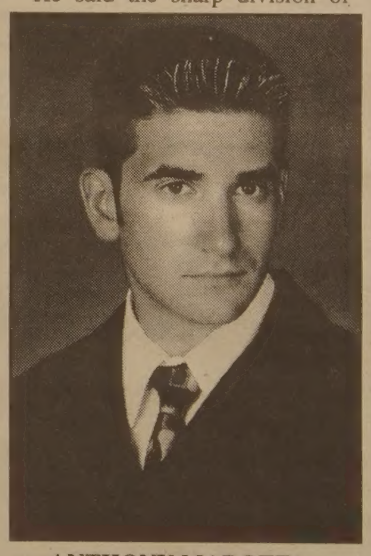
Anthony Marotta, 23, of St. Catharines, graduated in 1999 from the Business Administration — Marketing (Co-op) program at Niagara. His three years at the college were the equivalent to three years of a four-year degree in Business Administration at Northwood University in the United States.

Marotta said the partnership between Niagara College and Northwood, which also has campuses in Michigan and Texas, made for "a smooth transition" to his new school.

Although born and raised in St. Catharines, Marotta has dual citizenship, which also made his move a little easier. Without U.S. citizenship, a Canadian would have to apply for an I-20 Visa to attend school in the States.

Apart from experiencing first-hand two hurricanes and living 10 minutes away from hotel mogul Donald Trump, Marotta said it was easy to adjust to life in Florida. He does, however, find himself looking at the date on his watch to make sure it's really winter. His campus is located on its own private lake and has a swimming pool and a beach volleyball court.

He said the sharp division of wealth in the West Palm Beach area doesn't affect him much because the university does well to provide for its on-campus residents.



ANTHONY MAROTTA

"Every car that pulls up beside me down there is a BMW or a Jaguar. My car is nice up here, but it's just good enough to drive down there. If I keep it one more year they won't let me drive on the island."

An interest in financial planning, banking, and business management has taken Marotta to several job fairs in Florida and the Western New York State area. He has had a chance to meet with employers in these fields and get an understanding of what they are looking for in their hiring process.

He said the Bachelor of Business Administration degree he will finish in May is a requirement of almost all of the companies. He credits Niagara College for preparing him for these opportunities and having co-op placements like the one he had at Maple Leaf Poultry in Mississauga in 1998.

He said he likes the idea of having a college diploma, in addition to a university degree, to prepare him for the working world. Niagara gave him "practical knowledge and valuable co-op experience," he added.

"When you go to a job interview up here, you have to convince them you're good enough. In the States, because unemployment is only 4.1 per cent, employers fight to get the qualified, educated people that they're missing."

Marotta, who said he may go on to complete his master's degree after graduation, is entertaining job offers in the West Palm Beach-Fort Lauderdale-Miami area in Florida, as well as Toronto, the Niagara Region and Buffalo, N.Y.

East Side Mario's night set for March 21

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

March 21 is going to be a big night for Niagara College sudents.

The night kicks off with the Student Administrative Council (SAC) putting on a Niagara College Family night at East Side Mario's. The night, which begins at 4 p.m. and will run until 11 p.m., includes live music beginning at 9:30 p.m., a visit from Pikachu the Pokemon between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. for the children and also a draw for "a get-away for a day" at the Park Plaza located in Niagara Falls. The package includes a Jacuzzi suite for one night and a bottle of champagne.

SAC has set up a deal at East Side Mario's where 10 per cent of the total bill college students and staff and their friends and family accumulate will be donated back to SAC for the Year End Bash. This year's Year End Bash will be held at Big Buck's in St. Catharines on April 20.

"We are still seeing what we can work out," said Ryan McLaughlin, a student representative for SAC, "but from what we talked about, it should be pretty good."

Also on March 21 at the After Hours pub, SAC is putting on a talent contest. The doors open at 8 p.m. and the night will start up with karaoke.

"Karaoke is designed to bring people in," McLaughlin said, adding not everyone would be interested in seeing a talent show. "We are trying to make this event for everybody, appealing to as many people as possible."

Students can enter at the SAC office, located in the After Hours pub at the Welland campus, and compete for cash prizes. The first prize winner will receive $200. Second prize is $100 and third prize is $50.

EMPLOYMENT

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The Niagara News does not attest to the claims of any employment opportunity and encourages all those interested in any position offered to fully research every opportunity.

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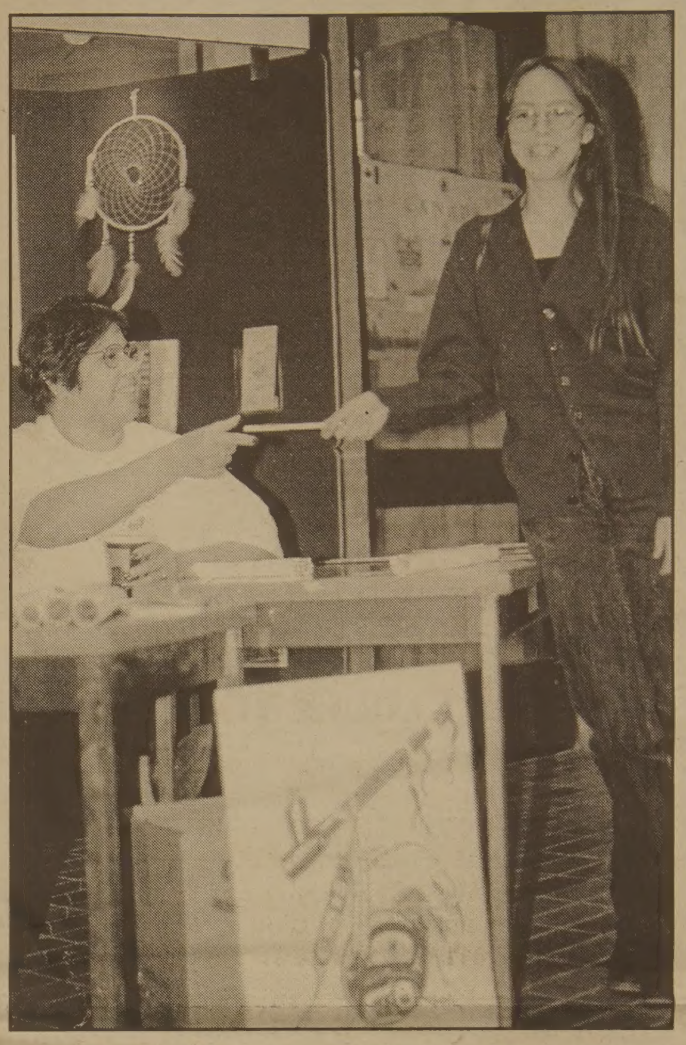
Contact the Summer Jobs Service today at 641-2252, ext. 4163 or stop by and visit us. Applications are available at:
Glendale Campus - Room W107
Niagara College Career Centre - 4-C Clark Street (St. Catharines) and 6255 Huggins Street (Stamford Green Plaza, Niagara Falls)

Funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

In Other News

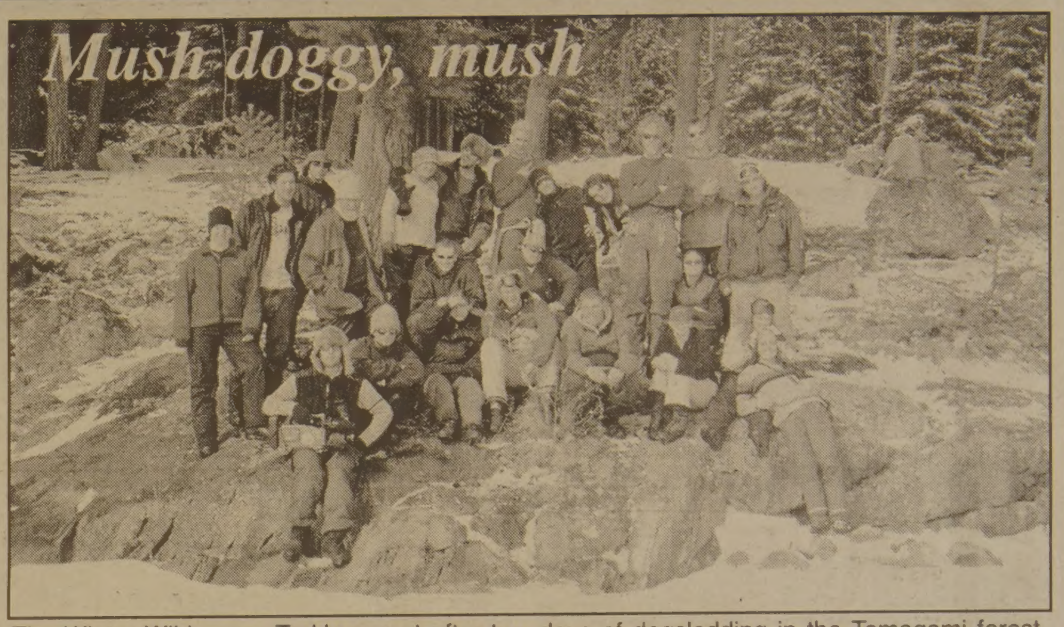
Career Day



Karen Servant, 34, a January-start Office Administrative – General program student, receives an Aboriginal Education Access pencil from Shirley Joshua, aboriginal counsellor, March 9, during the first aboriginal career day at the Welland campus. Joshua and Cheryl Marquis-Farago, crisis intervention worker, managed the Career Day booth that day. Marquis-Farago spoke to students on the healing power of laughter and play. She had a brochure and a handout available to students to take home with them. The career days are held every Thursday in March. Colleen Hill, Niagara College graduate and medical radiological technologist, managed the booth on March 16. Jeff Burnham, software developer and information technology trainer, Working World cancelled the morning session March 16, because of schedule-related problems at his office. The next Career Day will be held on March 23.

Photo by Cassandra Simons

Mush doggy, mush



The Winter Wilderness Trekkers rest after two days of dogsledding in the Temagami forest. Twenty-one Niagara students travelled a total of 1,000 kilometres north with Valerie Grabove, professor, during the Break Week for a crash course on environmental issues, team building and survival.

Submitted photo

St. Patrick's Day means more than an excuse for drinking green beer

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

St. Patrick's Day is possibly the only national holiday given recognition outside of its native Ireland.

The story of St. Patrick's Day is derived from both history and legend. St. Patrick was born in Scotland and was kidnapped, taken to Ireland and sold there as a slave. He eventually learned to speak the Irish language fluently before escaping the island. He was later ordained a deacon, then a priest and finally a bishop. Pope Celestine then sent him back to Ireland to teach the gospel.

That much is fact, but then begins the legend.

Legend has it St. Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland (and there really are no snakes found in Ireland), banishing them to the Irish Sea. There are several different versions of the tale, some saying he did so with a wooden staff and another saying he banished all snakes, but one.

St. Patrick is said to have finally tricked the snake by making a box and inviting the serpent to enter it. The snake insisted the box was too small and the discussion became very heated. It entered the box to prove it was right, whereupon St. Patrick slammed the lid shut and cast the box out to sea.

In many old pagan religions, the serpent was a religious symbol, and possibly even worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland is thought to be symbolic of putting an end to the pagan religion and bringing Christianity to Ireland.

The day is celebrated in many communities and cities by having parades . . . and by serving green beer.

According to tradition, St. Patrick died in 493 AD and was buried in the same graveyard as St. Bridget and St. Columba, at Downpatrick, County Down.

The day, which is celebrated in many communities and cities by having parades, by "the wearing of the green" and by serving green beer. Some places go as far as dyeing their rivers green to mark the holiday of Ireland's patron saint.

In Ireland, almost all businesses, with the exception of restaurants and pubs, close every March 17.

Since the day is also considered a religious holiday, many attend Mass that day to offer prayers for missionaries throughout the world before beginning their celebrations.

Tag-team wrestling more spectacular than in recent memory

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer
Column

Tag wrestling has caught on in the World Wrestling Federation (WWF). There are more teams than ever and the matches are more spectacular than they've been in recent memory. I'm a big fan of tag team matches and I'm loving every minute of it, especially now that the New Age Outlaws have seemingly split.

The problem in the past for WWF tag team wrestling was that the division was small. It was strong for a while in the beginning, with great teams like the British Bulldogs, the Hart Foundation, Strike Force, Demolition and the Killer Bs.

As time progressed, these teams were broken up or the members moved to other activities, and we were left with a handful of teams like the Bulldog, Owen Hart, Furnus and Lathong. It's not that these teams weren't any good — they were — but two teams don't make a good tag division.

This continued for a while until the introduction of the invincible teams of Stone Cold Steve Austin and Shawn Michaels, Stone Cold Steve Austin and Dude Love and The New Age Outlaws. I hated the former teams because they were just thrown together and they won. I can't stand the Outlaws either, but they keep winning too.

Today, the competition is fierce. Great teams like The Hardy Boys, Edge and Christian, Too Much, The Hollys, The Godfather and D'lo, The Acolytes and The Dudley Boys have already given us some memorable matches. These guys put great effort and showmanship into their matches. The last match between the team of Edge and Christian and the Hardy Boys was, I think, the match of the year.

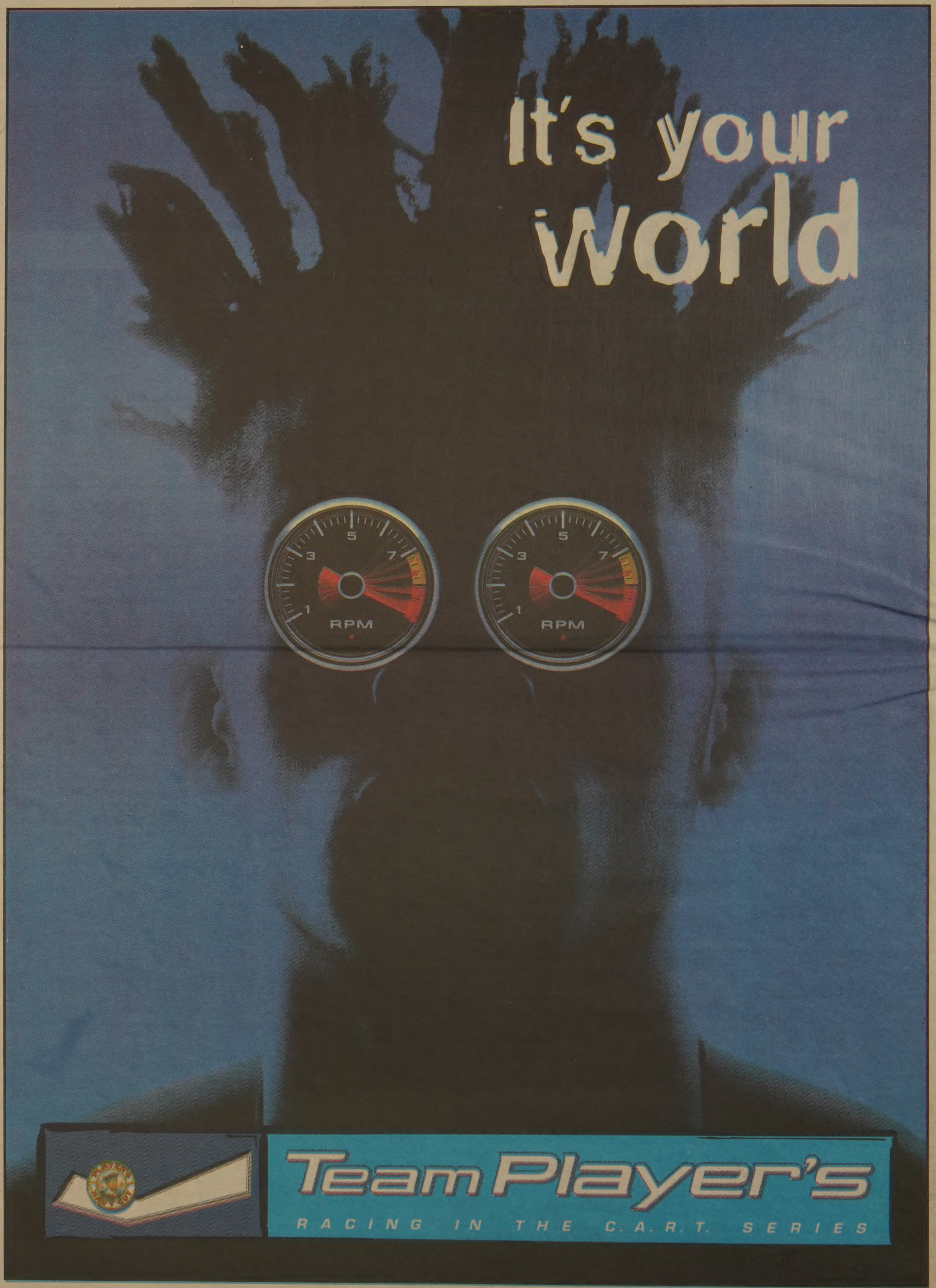
I hated the former teams because they were just thrown together and they won. I can't stand the Outlaws either, but they keep winning too.

I hope the tag matches keep coming. It's another reason the WWF is destroying World Championship Wrestling in the ratings war.

Thanks to all who sent in an answer to last week's question. We had our best response of year. Last week's question asked what well-known former wrestler became the governor of Minnesota. Chad Cunningham, a student in the Special Events Management program, answered Jesse (The Body) Ventura.

This week's question asks who beat Bret (The Hitman) Hart in the Hitman's final match at the Survivor Series in Montreal?

I will accept the first correct answer, so give it a shot. You can send in your answers, along with your name, program and where you're from to niagaranews@yahoo.com or you can bring them to S212, the Journalism-Print program room, in the Simcoe building at the Welland campus by next Wednesday. This week's winner will be identified in next week's edition.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